

# Technology for Life and Learning Center

## *Student Directed Services*

The Department of Human Services, Office of Education's Technology for Life and Learning Center (TLLC) makes assistive technology services available to all students for whom the Office of Education provides educational programming. Services are specifically geared towards students with disabilities that affect communication, learning, academic achievement, and access to the environment. Services are provided at the Office of Education and in the referred student's school.

The TLLC provides two distinct programs: Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology Educational Achievement Model (ATEAM). Both provide diagnostic and intervention services to enable students to become proficient users of assistive technology tools/strategies, thereby increasing their function in identified areas.

The AAC team will work in consultation with staff to determine student need. Specifically, the TLLC will consult with program staff to create a plan for each student with regard to communication.

The ATEAM provides assistive technology services to ensure that students with disabilities, regardless of type or severity, have access to curriculum. The ATEAM will consult with educational program staff to ensure students are appropriately considered for assistive technology.

Once a student is identified by the AAC Team or ATEAM, the process includes:

- evaluation of students' needs and skills;
- evaluation of use of assistive technology devices/strategies related to students' needs and skills in the areas of communication, access, and/or learning;
- development of a program to enhance communication and/or academic achievement/learning;
- student and staff training regarding the operation and integration of technology and strategies into classroom activities;
- a trial period with recommended technology; and
- ongoing technical assistance.

## *Program- Based Services*

Both the AAC Team and the ATEAM provide general services to DHS educational programs regarding technology related to communication, access to learning, and/or other areas as requested. Services may include:

- assisting staff in the process of assistive technology decision-making during the IEP process
- recommendations for technology/or tools to be used for classroom based instruction
- system operation training related to technology used for classroom instruction
- integration training related to technology used for classroom instruction
- recommendations for school based technology purchases

The Technology for Life and Learning Center staff will also work with educational programs related to their own unique needs related to technology and/or assistive technology.

## *Assistive Technology Support Team Services*

In partnership with the Department of Education, Office of Special Education Program as supported by the US Department of Education State Improvement Grant, the Department of Human Services, Office of Education will facilitate the provision of assistive technology services to New Jersey students in compliance with IDEA 2004 and New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:14-3.7 by conducting a training series on the ***Integration of Assistive Technology into the Educational Process***.

This training series is being offered to district-based teams and Office of Education staff and will provide participants with valuable knowledge about assistive technology that can be applied to their work with students with disabilities. All NJ school districts will have an opportunity to participate from April 2006 to July 2007. Registration announcements will be issued to district Superintendents and Directors of Special Services for specific dates during this time period. Technical assistance will be offered to training series participants following training.

***For additional information about the TLLC, contact the Office of Education:***

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